

Appendix:

Clean Version of the Claims:

1. A system for the exchange of electronic data for optimizing a processing chain and/or a management chain for producing agricultural products between a plurality of users comprising:
 - users operable as both a provider and a receiver of information;
 - at least one user functioning as a receiver and at least one user functioning as a provider;
 - a data exchange network; and
 - a central data memorywherein:
 - said receiver generates question postings which are transmitted to the provider and receives results from the provider and
 - said provider generates results in the form of a service in response to the question postings and transmits said results directly and/or via the central data memory to said receiver without any further instructions from the receiver.
2. (Canceled)
3. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein provider groups identify themselves as services that are accessible to said at least one user.
4. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein said provider defines access rights to said service.
5. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein said provider transmits said results in timely manner and other users edit said results to provide information beyond the question posted by the receiver.

6. (Canceled)

7. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein said results generated by said provider comprises referring to at least one other result generated by least one other provider and/or sub-service providers.

8. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein said service of said provider is permanently or temporarily connected as need requires to said receiver generating said question postings.

9. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein said service of said provider provides additional information that is not expressly required by said receiver, which increases service quality provided by said provider.

10. The system as defined in claim 9, wherein said provider providing said service obtains said additional information by retrieving said additional information from another service provided by another service provider.

11. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein services of a plurality of service providers are made available to said receiver by said provider and/or a selection of said services is made available to said receiver by a number of different service providers.

12. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein said provider is a stationary unit or a mobile unit and communicates via said at least one data exchange system with said receiver and/or said provider.

13. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein said provider and said receiver alternately exchange said required information by means of said data exchange network.

14. The system as defined in claim 13, wherein said data exchange network is global or spatially limited.

15. The system as defined in claim 12, wherein said stationary unit or said mobile unit have sensors for generating receiver-specific information, and said receiver-specific information is made available to at least one service provider and/or at least one further receiver by means of said data exchange network.

16. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein said question postings and results generated by said users in said data network is generated in a standardized format.

17. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein said users comprise machines and/or businesses engaged in planting, caring for, harvesting, storing and/or processing of agricultural products; machine manufacturers; weather services; crop advisory services and planting.

18. A method of communication between a plurality of users of at least one data exchange system in which each of said users operates as both a server and a receiver of information for optimizing a processing chain and/or a management chain for producing agricultural products, said method comprising the steps of:

a) producing answers in response to question postings by at least one receiver in at least one user of at least one data transmission network according to specific standards, said at least one user functioning as said server; and

b) picking up said answers by at least one other user of said at least one data transmission network and/or editing the required information generated by said at least one user, adjusted according to needs of said at least one other user, said at least one other user functioning as said receiver.

19. The method as defined in claim 18, further comprising making said answers, adjusted according to said needs of said at least one other user, available to said at least one other user in the form of a service of said server.

20. The method as defined in claim 19, wherein said server defines access rights to said service.

21. The method as defined in claim 19, wherein said server makes said required information available in timely manner as part of said service and makes said required information matched to said requirements of said at least one other user available to said at least one other user in a timely manner.

22. (Canceled)

23. The method as defined in claim 18, wherein said server refers to at least one other server and/or to sub-service providers to obtain necessary information for answering said question postings.

24. The method as defined in claim 18, further comprising providing additional information to said receiver from said service of said server that is not expressly required by said receiver, in order to increase service quality provided by said server.

25. The method as defined in claim 24, wherein said server providing said service obtains said additional information by retrieving said additional information from another service provided by another service provider.